

E. Stanley “Ned” Smith



<p>Edmund Stanley "Ned" Smith was born October 9, 1919 in Millersburg, Pennsylvania, a small town on the Susquehanna River, North of Harrisburg. A self-trained artist and naturalist, in his 46-year career he created thousands of astonishingly accurate drawings and paintings of wildlife for books, magazines and other publications, as well as dozens of limited edition prints.</p> <p>Smith grew up in a household that was attuned to nature; his mother was an avid birder, and his father, who managed a local shoe factory, had a passion for botany. Combining his love of natural history with an innate aptitude for art, Ned was already producing quality wildlife illustrations when he completed high school in the 1930s, but after graduation he began working, not as an artist, but as a lathe operator in a machine shop — a steady income for him and his new wife, Marie Reynolds, his childhood sweetheart.</p> <p>Early Artist Days</p> <p>He continued to draw and paint, however, spending every spare moment in the field — a habit that continued throughout his life, and honed his abilities as both an observer of wildlife and a naturalist. In 1939 he made his first commercial sale, a cover</p>	<p>painting for “Pennsylvania Angler” magazine, and a full-time illustration job for Samworth Publishing soon followed; the Smiths lived for a year on the Samworth estate in South Carolina as Ned illustrated the hunting and firearms books that Samworth produced.</p> <p>Pennsylvania Game Commission</p> <p>After their return to Pennsylvania, Smith landed a job as the staff illustrator with the PA Game Commission, the beginning of a lifelong association with the state's wildlife agency. Over the years, he created nearly 120 cover paintings for Pennsylvania Game News, the agency's magazine, and in the 1960s he began a monthly column he dubbed "Gone for the Day" that proved to be enduringly popular. Drawn from his voluminous field journals and sketchbooks, the column was deceptively simple — a diary-like account of the animals and plants he encountered, illustrated in his by-then-signature style, using small, crisp pen-and-ink drawings and larger, more complex renderings in pencil and gouache on toned paper. The column ran for four years, and in 1971 was published in book form. It remains in print, one of the classics of Pennsylvania nature writing.</p>	<p>Finding Success</p> <p>With Marie functioning as his business partner as well as his birding, camping and fishing companion, and with his Game Commission work as a platform, Smith's reputation and reach as an artist quickly grew. He left the Game Commission's employ in 1953 to work fulltime as a freelance artist (though the agency always remained a major client).</p> <p>His freelance work included long-running columns, articles and illustrations in Sports Afield, National Wildlife Federation, Pennsylvania Angler, South Carolina Wildlife, National Geographic and other magazines, and over the years he illustrated 14 books, including the Peterson series Field Guide to Birds' Nests by the noted naturalist Hal Harrison.</p> <p>In 1983 he was given the honor of creating Pennsylvania's first-ever state duck stamp, and he painted a second design two years later. Smith was, however, more than just a wildlife illustrator. He was a talented photographer and a skilled writer with an informal, conversational style, as well as a musician and inventor.</p> <p>He and Marie were avid amateur archaeologists, once excavating an Indian encampment on an island in</p>
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the Susquehanna that had been laid bare by floods caused by Tropical Storm Agnes in 1972. Many of their discoveries are now in the State Museum in Harrisburg.

In the late 1970s, Smith began to work in the burgeoning field of fine art prints, initially publishing them himself, but eventually joining with Sportsman Specialties, a gallery and publisher in western Pennsylvania. In the final five years of his life, Smith produced a series of exceptionally popular prints from large acrylics and oils, including such masterworks as "Waiting for Dusk," which portrays a pair of red foxes on a late-winter evening, or "A Little Bit Cautious," in which a large black bear gives a porcupine a wide berth.

During the same period, he also created several of the Game Commission's Working Together for Wildlife prints, including "Dutch Country Bluebirds," one of his most popular pieces, as well as fundraising prints for the National Wild Turkey Federation, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and other organizations.

Ned Smith's Legacy



The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

For many years, Ned Smith battled heart disease; on April 22, 1985, while working in the garden of their Millersburg home, he died of a heart attack at the age of 65. Since his death, the value of his work has continued to rise.

From Marie's initial desire to find an institution to house her extensive collection of Ned's art eventually grew the idea for the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, which uses Ned's many overlapping interests and talents as a springboard for bridging the worlds of art and natural science.

Ned Smith

FAST FACTS



BORN October 9, 1919

AGE 20 | 1939 Makes his first commercial sale as an artist, a cover painting for "Pennsylvania Angler" magazine

AGE 26 | 1945 Following World War II, marries Marie Reynolds, his high school sweetheart.

AGE 28 | 1947 Job as illustrator for Samworth Publications, a firearms book publisher, took Ned and Marie to South Carolina where they lived for a few months at Dirleton Plantation, the home of the firm's owner, Thomas Samworth. Ned's illustrations for Samworth were used in FBI textbooks among other print materials.



AGE 34 | 1953 Leaves the Game Commission for life as a full-time freelance artist, maintaining a close relationship with the Game Commission but forging new ground as a writer

AGE 30 | 1949 Ned finally leaves Samworth Publications, having returned to Pennsylvania and takes a job with the Pennsylvania Game Commission as staff illustrator for the monthly "Game News," eventually becoming a full-time illustrator for the PGC

AGE 47 | 1966 PGC publishes the first "Gone for the Day" column, an illustrated diary of his outdoor wanderings



AGE 50 | 1971 "Gone for the Day" published in book form. It has been in print since its first publication.

1970s Creates and compiles into book form many fine art wildlife prints with Sportsman Specialties



AGE 65 | 1985 Ned suffers a heart attack at home in Millersburg while working in his garden.

His legacy is carried on by Marie who worked tirelessly for the creation of the Ned Smith Center for Wildlife and Art, which opened in its permanent home in 2004,

AGE 63 | 1983 Creates Pennsylvania's first-ever duck stamp



Ned Smith

GUIDING QUESTIONS



<p>These questions and answers are designed to aid discussion of two of the main ideas presented in the film, <i>Ned Smith: Gone for the Day</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seeing is more than merely looking, it involves noticing things.• Blending the worlds of nature and art and fostering an appreciation of both. <p>Open ended questions to begin discussion:</p> <p>What was the most interesting thing you learned from the video?</p> <p>Why do you think so many people found Ned Smith's works interesting?</p> <p>What similarities do you see between Ned Smith and yourself?</p> <p>What differences do you see between Ned Smith and yourself?</p> <p>What do you think Ned would want viewers to take away from the video and why?</p> <p>"Seeing is more than merely looking, it involves noticing things." - <i>Ned Smith</i></p> <p>"Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." - <i>Confucius</i></p>	<p>How did Ned Smith's upbringing and personal experiences influence his work and accomplishments?</p> <p>Several factors contributed to Ned Smith's pursuits and passions in life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His parents were both interested and involved in the natural world and sparked an interest for Ned at a young age.• He grew up in the ridges and valleys of Central Pennsylvania with easy access to the woods, fields, and Susquehanna River.• He worked in a machine shop but knew he wanted to pursue work with wildlife art.• His wife, Marie was supportive and understanding of his love of the outdoors and his artistic abilities.• He held a position with the Samworth Publications (a gun and book magazine publisher) in South Carolina for a year which helped showcase his love of nature and artistic abilities, leading to other jobs in the field.	<p>Why did Ned Smith pay so much attention to detail in his works?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He spent as much time as he could in the outdoors studying the natural world and thus paid great attention to detail.• He wanted to provide readers with an accurate and realistic image of his subject. He felt it was the job of the artist to inform the public the best that they could.• He stood out from other artists because his work was so detailed and accurately depicted the plant or animal he was creating.• His attention to detail allowed Ned Smith to illustrate many field guides, books, and posters for agencies like the Pennsylvania Game Commission, National Wildlife Federation, and Peterson Field Guides.
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<p>How can you make a difference in your world?</p> <p>Using Ned Smith’s story to add inspiration to your life, become more observant of the natural world around you. Share your findings with others around you and encourage them to do the same. Here are some ideas:</p> <p><i>Visit an art gallery, particularly one that focuses on nature and the arts. Or develop your own art gallery at the school with student produced pieces!</i></p> <p><i>Spend time outdoors.</i> Go for a hike, fish in the local creek, go birding, sketch wildlife in your notepad. Take time to connect with nature and gain a greater appreciation for the natural world. Invite a family member or friend with you to have fun exploring the outdoors. Get ideas from Get Outdoors PA. (https://getoutdoorspa.org/)</p> <p><i>Volunteer.</i> Volunteer with a local conservation group, clean up group, or nature center. Build bird houses, create habitat for wildlife (nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create), plant trees, or pick up trash. Help take care of the natural world around us and ensure it will be in good hands for future generations to use. (volunteermatch.org/)</p> <p><i>Research.</i> Research and propose a Pennsylvania Historical Marker in your local community that relates to conservation. Carry out Citizen Science Projects such as Project FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Count.</p>	<p>(phmc.pa.gov/preservation/historical-markers/Pages/default.aspx)</p> <p>(https://feederwatch.org/)</p> <p>(audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count)</p> <p><i>Blending the worlds of nature and art and fostering an appreciation of both.</i></p> <p>“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.” - Albert Einstein</p> <p>How did wildlife art help fuel the conservation movement?</p> <p>In the United States, a strong focus was placed on conservation and the environment. People became more mindful of how their actions impacted the environment and wanted to preserve and protect natural resources. Wildlife art sparked an interest in conservation with many people and helped promote positive interactions with the environment.</p> <p>Wildlife art was easy for viewers to relate to and people generally like observing animals. Wildlife art was popular among outdoorsman and helped to promote protection of fish and game species for future generations to enjoy.</p>	<p>Why should future generations develop an appreciation for nature and art?</p> <p>As the landscape of the world changes and technology becomes more prevalent, it is vital that present and future generations of people gain an appreciation for both nature and the arts. In today’s world, it is very easy to lose touch of the natural world around us and the arts can often be overlooked.</p> <p>Art is a great way to express one’s perspective of the natural world and likewise, nature and the environment is often a great focus for the arts.</p>
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Ned Smith

ACTIVITIES



The following sites require that you attend training to obtain their lesson plan materials:



[Project Wild](http://projectwild.org) offers wildlife focused conservation activities and lessons for K-12 students and educators. The activities and lessons are support national and state academic standards. (projectwild.org)

Key activities:

- Wild Words
- Urban Nature Search
- Museum Search for Wildlife
- Wildlife in National Symbols
- Does Wildlife Sell?
- Animal Poetry



[Project Wild Aquatic](http://projectwild.org/aquatic) offers lessons and activities similar to Project WILD but with an emphasis on aquatic wildlife, habitat, and ecology. The lessons and activities are also for K-12 students and support national and state academic standards. (projectwild.org/aquatic)

Key activities:

- Micro Odyssey
- Watered-Down History
- Water Wings
- Aquatic Times



[Project Learning Tree](http://plt.org) offers lessons and activities related to environmental education for K-8 students. Lessons and activities encourage students to think about how to address environmental issues and make decisions that positively affect the environment. The lessons support national and state academic standards. (plt.org)

Key Activities:

- Poet-tree
- Pass the Plants, Please
- I'd Like to Visit a Place Where...
- Name That Tree
- Earth Manners
- In the Good Old Days

Suggested Activities

Ned Smith: The Man - Take part in activities similar to those of Ned Smith through observation, nature journaling, sketching, hunting, and fishing.

Create habitat for wildlife - Check out Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), or Penn State Extension for ideas and tips on improving and creating wildlife habitat.

(nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=nrcs143_023553)

(nwf.org/Home/Our-Work/Habitats)

(<https://extension.psu.edu/>)

Beautify your school - What can you do to improve your school grounds? Ask your friends and teachers for help to create a more attractive learning environment.


Study and create a presentation on another conservationist - Study and research other conservationists and create a presentation or report for school. Research their impacts on conservation and what influenced them to pursue work in the conservation field.

Ned Smith

LINKS



<p>State Environmental & Conservation Agencies and Related Sites</p> <p>Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (allianceforthebay.org/)</p> <p>Appalachian Audubon Society (appalachianaudubon.org/)</p> <p>Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (centralpaconservancy.org/)</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Foundation (cbf.org/)</p> <p>Ducks Unlimited-Pennsylvania Chapter (ducks.org/Pennsylvania)</p> <p>Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (hawkmountain.org/)</p> <p>Hershey-Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau (visithersheyharrisburg.org/)</p> <p>Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (keeppabeautiful.org/)</p> <p>Millersburg Ferry Boat Association (millersburgferry.org/2136/2157.html)</p> <p>Mothman (mothman.org/)</p> <p>National Wild Turkey Federation-Pennsylvania Chapter (nwtf.org/about/state/pennsylvania)</p> <p>Penn Future (pennfuture.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (pacd.org/)</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (paee.net/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Audubon Society (pa.audubon.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project (paconservationheritage.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited (patrout.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (agriculture.pa.gov/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (dcnr.pa.gov/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (dep.pa.gov/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Environmental Council (pecpa.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation (pedf.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (fish.state.pa.us/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Forestry Association (paforestry.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Game Commission (pgc.pa.gov/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Native Plant Society (panativeplantsociety.org/)</p>	<p>Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association (paoutdoorwriters.com/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Association (paparksandforests.org/)</p> <p>Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation (pawildlife.org/)</p> <p>Perry County Council on the Arts (perrycountyarts.org/)</p> <p>Project OwlNet (projectowl.net/)</p> <p>Quality Deer Management Association-Pennsylvania Chapter (qdma.com/pennsylvania/)</p> <p>Red Creek Wildlife Center (redcreekwildlifecenter.com/)</p> <p>Sierra Club,-Pennsylvania Chapter (sierraclub.org/pennsylvania)</p> <p>Susquehanna River Basin Commission (srbc.net/)</p> <p>Susquehanna Valley Visitors Bureau (visitcentralpa.org/)</p> <p>WITF (Public Broadcasting for Central Pennsylvania) (http://www.witf.org/) [Then type “environmental issues” or “environmental news” or “environment & conservation” into the search box]</p> <p>Wildlife Leadership Academy (wildlifeleadershipacademy.org/)</p>
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<p>Wildlife for Everyone Endowment Foundation (wildlifeforeveryone.org/)</p> <p>Woodlands and Wildlife Publication (archive.org/details/woodlandswildlif0/hass)</p> <p>Wildlife Artists and Authors</p> <p>Gerald Putt (geraldputt.com/)</p> <p>Dan Christ (danchristgallery.com/)</p> <p>Jack Paluh (jackpaluh.com/)</p> <p>Laura Mark-Finberg (lauramarkfinberg.com/)</p> <p>Susan Bankey Yoder (susanbankeyyoderartist.com/)</p> <p>Dana Bellis (danabellisart.com/)</p> <p>Larry Beckstein (becksteinart.com/)</p> <p>Patrick Gnan (patrickgnan.com/)</p> <p>Mark Anderson (markandersonart.com/)</p> <p>Timothy Flanigan (natureexposure.com/#!/page/home/)</p> <p>Jocelyn Beatty (jocelynbeatty.com/)</p> <p>Marcia Bonta (marciabonta.wordpress.com/)</p> <p>Mark Bray (markbrayfineart.com/)</p> <p>Clare Walker Leslie (clarewalkerleslie.com/)</p> <p>Toni Albert (tricklecreekbooks.com/)</p> <p>Susan Leigh Tomlinson (thebikegarden.com/)</p> <p>Linda Krantz (lindakrantz.com/)</p>	<p>References</p> <p>“About Ned Smith.” Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, 2018, www.nedsmithcenter.org/about-ned-smith/.</p> <p>Bashline, L. James, and Ned Smith. <i>The Eastern Trail</i>. Freshet Press, 1972.</p> <p>Doutt, J. Kenneth., et al. <i>Mammals of Pennsylvania</i>. 4th ed., Pennsylvania Game Commission, 1977.</p> <p>Fergus, Charles. <i>Wildlife of Pennsylvania and the Northeast</i>. Stackpole Books, 2000.</p> <p>Hamerstrom, Frances. <i>Walk When the Moon is Full</i>. The Crossing Press, 1975.</p> <p>Harrison, Hal H., et al. <i>Peterson Field Guides Eastern Birds' Nests</i>. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1975.</p> <p>Haskell, David George. <i>The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature</i>. Penguin Books, 2013.</p> <p>Hassinger, Jerry D., and Carroll L. Henderson. <i>Woodworking for Wildlife: Homes for Birds and Mammals</i>. Pennsylvania Game Commission, 1990.</p> <p>Lawlor, Elizabeth P., and Pat Archer. <i>Discover Nature in Winter: Things to know and things to do</i>. Stackpole Books, 1998.</p> <p>Moyer, Ben. <i>Out Back: Reflections From the Appalachian Outdoors</i>. First Printing, 2002.</p> <p>Ned Smith: Gone for the Day, PBS Video, video.witf.org/video/3003781510/.</p> <p>Smith, Ned. <i>Gone for the Day</i>. Pennsylvania Game Commission, 1971. Smith, Ned. <i>Ned Smith's Wildlife Sketchbook</i>. National Wildlife Federation, 1988.</p>	<p>Smith, Ned, and Scott Weidensaul. <i>Gone for Another Day</i>. Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, 2013.</p> <p>Smith, Ned, and Scott Weidensaul. <i>Ned Smith's Game News Covers: The Complete Collection</i>. Stackpole, 2006.</p> <p>Starnner, Kevin. <i>The God's Country Naturalist</i>. 2015.</p> <p>Starnner, Kevin. <i>The God's Country Naturalist Reflections on Nature</i>. 2015.</p> <p>Weidensaul, Scott. <i>Seasonal Guide to the Natural Year: A Month by Month Guide to Natural Events</i>. Fulcrum Pub., 1993.</p> <p>Weidensaul, Scott, and Ned Smith. <i>The Wildlife Art of Ned Smith</i>. Stackpole Books, 2003.</p> <p>Zickefoose, Julie. <i>Letters from Eden: A Year at Home, in the Woods</i>. Houghton Mifflin, 2006.</p> <p>Video</p>  <p>Ned Smith: Gone for the Day (video.witf.org/video/3003781510/)</p> <p>If you liked this video, others are available at Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project paconservationheritage.org</p>
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